GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:806
ANSWERED ON:26.02.2009
GAUGE CONVERSION WORK BETWEEN MAYILADUTHURAI-VILLUPURAM
Kharventhan Shri Salarapatty Kuppusamy

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the gauge conversion work between Mayiladuthurai-Villupuram is progressing at a very slow pace;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Railways to expedite the execution of this Project?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS(DR. R. VELU)

(a) to (c): A Statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (c) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 806 BY SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 26.02.2009 REGARDING GAUGE CONVERSION WORK BETWEEN MAYILADUTHURAI-VILLUPURAM.

(a): The project was initially targeted for completion in February, 2008.However,the project has been delayed and is now targeted for completion in July, 2009.

(b): The reasons for the delay are as under:-

(i). Unusual rains from July, 2007 to January, 2008 as against the normal monsoon season of October to December.

(ii).Abnormal price increase and non-availability of Ordinary Portland Cement (OPC).

(iii).Abnormal price increase and less availability of reinforcement steel.

(iv). Acute law and order problem in the section including theft of cables and reinforcement rods.

(v). Frequent obstructions by villagers for movement of heavy machinery through the village.

(c): Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) has already commissioned the section between Mayiladuthurai to Sirakaji. The balance work is at advanced stage and the project is likely to be completed by July, 2009. Tight supervision is being maintained by CPM/Chennai on the contractor and monitoring of the project at the highest level is being done on a regular basis so as to ensure that there are no further slippages.